

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) A mail piece tracking system including:
 - A. one or more servers that perform the operations of
 - i. linking to user identifiers associated with respective users mail piece delivery status information for mail pieces that are directed by others to the respective users and sent by the respective users to others with respective user identifiers,
 - ii. associating with the linked delivery status information one or more messages from the senders of the mail pieces,
 - iii. producing listings of the delivery status information based on the for the mail pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the user identifiers, and
 - iv. including links to the respective associated messages in the listings of the delivery status information; and
 - B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers enter the user identifiers to gain access to the linked listings of delivery status information and the included links to the associated messages.
3. (withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:
 - A. one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, associating with the delivery status information for a given mail piece related transaction information, producing listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including a link to the transaction information in the listing of the delivery status information;

- B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status information.
- 4. (currently amended) A mail piece tracking system including:
 - A. one or more servers the perform the operations of
 - i. linking to user identifiers associated with respective users mail piece delivery status information for mail pieces that are directed by others to the respective users and sent by the respective users to others with respective user identifiers,
 - ii. associating with the linked delivery status information one or more messages from the senders of the mail pieces,
 - iii. producing listings of the delivery status information based on the for the mail pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the user identifiers, and
 - iv. including links to the respective associated messages in the listings of the delivery status information; and
 - B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers enter the user identifiers to gain access to the linked listings of delivery status information and the included links to the associated messages.
- 5. (cancelled)
- 6. (cancelled)
- 7. (withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:
 - A. one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers producing listings of the delivery status information for

mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including in the mail piece delivery status information

- i. a sender identifier,
- ii. a mail type identifier,
- iii. a delivery service identifier, and
- iv. links to on-line information provided by or associated with the sender.

8. (cancelled)

9. (withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein
- a. the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes updating the information, and
 - b. the step of providing a listing of mail piece delivery status information includes providing in the list the updated information.

10. (withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:
- A. associating respective users with user identifiers;
 - B. associating with the identified users mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;
 - C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the delivery status information including information that identifies the senders of the respective mail pieces that are directed to the identified users; and
 - D. providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that corresponds to the given user.

11. (withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein the step of linking mail piece delivery status information with the user identifiers includes associating therewith messages from the respective senders.

12. (cancelled)

13. (withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 11 wherein the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes associating therewith messages from the respective delivery services.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:
- A. associating respective users with user identifiers;
 - B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;
 - C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status information including the source of a given mail piece; and
 - D. providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces associated with the given user and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that is associated with the given user and further providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user

of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to display information concerning the source of a given mail piece.

21. (currently amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

- A. associating respective users with user identifiers;
- B. associating with the respective users mail pieces directed by others to the respective users ~~and~~ sent to others by the respective users;
- C. linking to the respective user identifiers to which the mail pieces are associated mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces ~~to the respective user identifiers that are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associated,~~
- D. further associating, with the mail piece delivery status information, information concerning the contents of the respective mail pieces; ~~and~~
- E. providing a graphical interface ~~connected to notify the respective users of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to~~ for entering user identifiers and providing access to
 - i. ~~provide~~ the mailpiece delivery status information that is linked to the entered user identifiers ~~that are associated with the respective users,~~
 - and
 - ii. ~~provide to the respective users the associated information~~ concerning the contents of the respective mail pieces that is associated with the mailpiece delivery status information provided in step i.

22. (currently amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

- A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
- B. associating with the respective users respective mail pieces directed by others to the respective users ~~and~~ sent to others by the respective users;
- C. linking to the respective user identifiers to which the mail pieces are associated mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces ~~to the respective user identifiers that are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associated;~~
- D. associating with the delivery status information images of at least a portion of the contents of the respective mail pieces; and
- E. ~~providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers that correspond to the respective users; and~~
- F. providing a graphical interface ~~connected to~~ configured for entry of user identifiers and providing access to
 - ~~notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated~~
 - ~~respective mail pieces~~ based on the mail piece delivery status information linked to the entered user identifiers, and
 - ~~provide to the users the associated images of at least a portion of the contents of the respective mail pieces.~~

23. (currently amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

- A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
- B. associating with the users respective mail pieces directed by others to the respective users ~~and~~ sent by the respective users to others;
- C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers,
- D. associating, with the mail piece delivery status information, images of and information associated with respective mail pieces; ~~and~~
- E. ~~providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers that correspond to the respective users;~~

providing a graphical interface ~~connected to~~ configured for entry of user identifiers and providing access to
~~notify the respective users of~~

the delivery status of the associated respective mail pieces based on the mail piece delivery status information linked to the entered user identifiers, and

~~provide to the users the images of~~ and information associated with the mail piece delivery status information ~~respective mail pieces.~~

24. (previously amended) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 23 in which the interface is further configured to provide one or more messages associated with the respective mail pieces.

25. (withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

- A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
- B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;
- C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the associated respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status information including one or more links to information provided by senders of the respective mail pieces; and
- D. providing to a given user a listing of the associated respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the associated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to provide one or more links to the information provided by a sender of a given mail piece.

26. (withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 25 wherein the information provided by the sender includes one or more of transaction history, account balance, and payment option information.

27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

- A. one or more servers to
link to user identifiers associated with respective users mail piece delivery status information-with user identifiers, for mail pieces that are directed by others to the respective users and sent by the respective users to others.

associate with the delivery status information messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces,

produce listings of the delivery status information based on ~~for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user~~ identifiers, and

provide links to the messages in the listings of the delivery status information; and

- B. one or more browsers through which ~~to provide to the~~ respective users associated with the user identifiers enter the user identifiers to gain access to the linked listings of the delivery status information and the included ~~links~~ linked to the messages.

29. (currently amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

- A. one or more servers to
link to user identifiers associated with respective users mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers for mail pieces that are directed by others to the respective users and sent by the respective users to others,
link to the delivery status information related transaction information,
produce listings of the delivery status information ~~for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to~~ based on the user identifiers, and
associate ~~the~~ links to ~~the~~ transaction information with the listings of the delivery status information; and
- B. one or more browsers through which ~~users enter the user identifiers to gain~~ to provide access to the linked delivery status information ~~linked to a given user identifier~~ and also to the links to the ~~related~~ transaction information that associated with the delivery status information.

30. (currently amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

- A. one or more servers to
link to user identifiers associated with respective users mail piece delivery status information for mail pieces that are directed by others to the respective users and sent by the respective users to others ~~with user identifiers~~, -associate information relating to the contents of the respective mail pieces with the delivery status information,
produce listings of the mail piece delivery status information based on ~~for~~ mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers, and
include in the listings the associated information relating to the contents of the mail pieces; and
- B. one or more browsers through which users enter the user identifiers to gain ~~to provide~~ access to the delivery status information linked to the a given user identifiers and further to provide access to the associated information relating to the contents of the mail pieces.

31. (cancelled)

32. (withdrawn) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

- A. one or more servers to
link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, the delivery status information for a given mail piece including
 - a. a sender identifier,
 - b. a mail type identifier,
 - c. a delivery service identifier, and
 - d. related messages from the sender and the delivery service, and

produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers; and

- B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information linked to a given user identifier.

33. (cancelled)

34. (withdrawn) A method of operating a computer system, the method including the steps of:

- A. associating a given user session with a user identifier;
- B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is associated with the user identifier; and
- C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session last communicated with the server, in response to the user identifier being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further including a step of maintaining an index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the user identifier.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including

- i. a step of communicating through the session and providing information relating to a mailing label;
- ii. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information relating to the mailing label;
- iii. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the mailing label; and
- iv. a step of ending the session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained information.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further including

- i. in the step of communicating through the session providing information relating to postage for a mail piece;
- ii. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information relating to the postage;
- iii. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the postage; and
- iv. in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the retained information.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including

- a. a step of communicating through the session and providing information relating to postage for a mail piece;
- b. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information relating to the postage;
- c. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the postage; and
- d. a step of ending the session by printing the postage in accordance with the retained information.

39. (withdrawn) A method of operating a computer network including the steps of:

- A. associating a user session with a user identifier that is presented to gain access to information maintained by the network from a first node that communicates with the network;
- B. retaining a queue of messages relating to the user session and associating the queue with the user identifier; and
- C. in response to the user identifier being later presented at the first node or a second node that communicates over the network, continuing the user session at the first or second node by using the messages to present the session at the point at which the session last communicated with the server.

40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the step of retaining a queue of messages includes indexing the messages by the user identifier.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of retaining a queue of messages further includes maintaining the queue at each of a plurality of interconnected nodes, a given one of the interconnected nodes at which the user identifier is provided presenting the user session at the point at which the session last communicated with the server.

42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 38 further including conducting the user session by communicating over the network using a browser or a client executable.

43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of presenting the user identifier includes providing a machine-readable code to a scanner that communicates with the node.

44. (withdrawn) A method of operating a postal service computer system, the method including the steps of:

- A. associating a given user postal mailing label session with a user identifier;
- B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is associated with the user identifier, the messages further including mailing label information provided through the session; and
- C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session last communicated with the server by presenting the mailing label information provided through the session, in response to the user identifier being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

45. (withdrawn) The method of claim 44 further including a step of maintaining an index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the user identifier.

46. (withdrawn) The method of claim 45 further including the step of ending the continued session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained information.

47. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46 further including

- a. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information relating to postage;
- b. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the postage; and
- c. in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the retained information.